This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1 Claim 1 (canceled).

1 Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~1~~ 4
2 wherein the selected ~~one of at least one~~ set of
3 configuration information for a data forwarding device is a
4 most recently committed set of configuration information
5 for the data forwarding device.

1 Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~1~~ 4
2 wherein the selected ~~one of at least one~~ set of
3 configuration information for a data forwarding device is
4 selected by a user.

1 Claim 4 (currently amended): A method comprising:
2   a) accepting at least a part of a selected set of
3   configuration information for a data forwarding
4   device;
5   b) accepting at least a part of a set of candidate
6   configuration information for the data forwarding
7   device; and
8   c) determining differences, if any, between
9   - the at least a part of the set of candidate
10   configuration information for the data forwarding
11   device, and
12   - the at least a part of the selected set of
13   configuration information for the data forwarding
14   device,

15   ~~The method of claim 1~~ wherein the set of candidate
16   configuration information for the data forwarding device
17   includes a plurality of statements,

18   wherein a first statement of the plurality of
19   statements of the set of candidate configuration
20   information for the data forwarding device contains a
21   second statement of the plurality of statements to define
22   at least a part of a hierarchical configuration,

23   wherein the selected ~~one of the at least one~~ set
24   of configuration information for the data forwarding device
25   includes a plurality of statements, and

26   wherein a first statement of the plurality of
27   statements of the selected ~~one of the at least one~~ set of
28   configuration information for the data forwarding device
29   contains a second statement of the plurality of statements
30   to define at least a part of a hierarchical configuration.

1   Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of claim 4 wherein
2   the at least the part of the set of candidate configuration
3   information only includes a defined first statement and any
4   of the plurality of statements that are descendants of the
5   defined first statement in the hierarchical configuration,
6   and

7   wherein the at least the part of the selected ~~one~~
8   ~~of the at least one~~ set of configuration information
9   includes a corresponding first statement and any of the
10   plurality of statements that are descendants of the defined
11   first statement in the hierarchical configuration.

1   Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 5 wherein the
2   defined first statement is defined based on a statement of

3   the hierarchical candidate configuration information on

4   which a user is presently working.

1   Claim 7 (original):   The method of claim 5 wherein the

2   defined first statement is defined by a user input.

1   Claim 8 (original):   The method of claim 4 wherein the

2   hierarchical configuration information includes at least

3   two categories at a first hierarchical level, and

4   wherein the at least two categories are selected

5   from a group of data forwarding device configuration

6   categories consisting of:

7   A)   chassis configuration information;

8   B)   class-of-service configuration information;

9   C)   firewall configuration information;

10   D)   forwarding-options configuration information;

11   E)   groups configuration information;

12   F)   interfaces configuration information;

13   G)   policy-options configuration information;

14   H)   protocols configuration information;

15   I)   routing-instances configuration information;

16   J)   routing-options configuration information;

17   K)   network management protocol configuration

18   information; and

19   L)   system configuration information.

1   Claim 9 (original):   The method of claim 4 wherein the

2   hierarchical configuration information includes at least

3   two categories at a given hierarchical level, the method

4   further comprising:

5   d)   associating a predetermined permission value with

6   a user that is logged in; and

7   e)   determining whether the logged in user is

8   permitted to access one of the at least two categories

9   of configuration information based on the

10   predetermined permission.

1   Claim 10 (currently amended): A method comprising:

2   a)   accepting at least a part of a selected set of

3   configuration information for a data forwarding

4   device;

5   b)   accepting at least a part of a set of candidate

6   configuration information for the data forwarding

7   device; and

8   c)   determining differences, if any, between

9   -   the at least a part of the set of candidate

10   configuration information for the data forwarding

11   device, and

12   -   the at least a part of the selected set of

13   configuration information for the data forwarding

14   device,

15   The method of claim 1 wherein the act of accepting at

16   least a part of a selected one of at least one set of

17   configuration information for a data forwarding device is

18   performed by accessing a storage device of the data

19   forwarding device,

20   wherein the act of accepting at least a part of a

21   set of candidate configuration information for the data

22   forwarding device is performed by accessing a storage

23   device of the data forwarding device; and

24   wherein the act of determining differences, if

25   any, between

26   -   the at least the part of the set of candidate
27   configuration information for the data forwarding
28   device, and
29   -   the at least the part of the selected ~~one of~~
30   ~~the at least one~~ set of configuration information
31   for the data forwarding device,
32 is performed by a component of the data forwarding device.

1   Claim 11 (currently amended): A method comprising:
2   a) accepting at least a part of a selected set of
3   configuration information for a data forwarding
4   device;
5   b) accepting at least a part of a set of candidate
6   configuration information for the data forwarding
7   device; and
8   c) determining differences, if any, between
9   -   the at least a part of the set of candidate
10   configuration information for the data forwarding
11   device, and
12   -   the at least a part of the selected set of
13   configuration information for the data forwarding
14   device,
15 ~~The method of claim 1~~ wherein the set of candidate
16 configuration information for the data forwarding device
17 includes a plurality of statements, ~~at least some of which~~
18 ~~define parameter values,~~
19   wherein the selected ~~one of the at least one~~ set
20 of configuration information for the data forwarding device
21 includes a plurality of statements, ~~at least some of which~~
22 ~~define parameter values,~~ and
23   wherein the act of determining differences, if
24 any, between

6

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25        -  the at least a ~~the~~ part of the set of
26           candidate configuration information for the
27           data forwarding device, and
28        -  the at least a ~~the~~ part of the selected
29           ~~one of the at-least one~~ set of configuration
30           information for the data forwarding device,
31  considers changes to ~~a selected one of (a)~~ statements ~~only,~~
32  ~~(b)~~ without regard to parameter values ~~only, and (c)~~
33  ~~statements and parameter values~~.


1   Claim 12 (canceled)


1   Claim 13 (original):  In a data forwarding device, a
2   facility for checking at least a part of a set of candidate
3   configuration information, the facility comprising:
4           a)   a storage device for storing at least one set of
5           configuration information for the data forwarding
6           device;
7           b)   an input facility for
8                   i)   accepting at least a part of a selected one
9                   of the at least one set of configuration
10                  information for a data forwarding device, and
11                  ii)   accepting at least a part of a set of
12                  candidate configuration information for the data
13                  forwarding device; and
14          c)   a configuration comparison facility for
15          determining differences, if any, between
16                  -  the at least a ~~the~~ part of the set of
17                  candidate configuration information for the data
18                  forwarding device, and
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19   - the at least <u>a</u> ~~the~~ part of the selected one of

20   the at least one set of configuration information

21   for the data forwarding device.

1   14. (currently amended) A method for determining

2 differences in at least a part of sets of configuration

3 information, comprising:

4   a) accepting at least a part of a first <u>set</u> ~~selected~~

5   ~~one of at least two sets~~ of configuration information

6   for a data forwarding device<u>, wherein the first set of</u>

7   <u>configuration information has not been saved on the</u>

8   <u>data forwarding device as a committed configuration</u>;

9   b) accepting at least a part of a second <u>set</u> ~~selected~~

10   ~~one of the at least two sets~~ of configuration

11   information for the data forwarding device<u>, wherein</u>

12   <u>the second set of configuration information has been</u>

13   <u>saved on the data forwarding device</u>; and

14   c) determining differences, if any, between

15   - the first <u>set</u> ~~selected one of the at least two~~

16   ~~sets~~ of configuration information for a data

17   forwarding device, and

18   - the second <u>set</u> ~~selected one of the at least~~

19   ~~two sets~~ of configuration information for a data

20   forwarding device.

1 15. (currently amended) The method of claim 14 wherein

2 the first <u>set</u> ~~selected one of at least two sets~~ of

3 configuration information for a data forwarding device

4 includes a plurality of statements,

5   wherein a first statement of the plurality of

6 statements of the first <u>set</u> ~~selected one of at least two~~

7 ~~sets~~ of configuration information for a data forwarding

8   device contains a second statement of the plurality of

9   statements to define at least a part of a hierarchical

10 configuration,

11   wherein the second set ~~selected one of at least~~

12 ~~two sets~~ of configuration information for a data forwarding

13 device includes a plurality of statements, and

14   wherein a first statement of the plurality of

15 statements of the second set ~~selected one of at least two~~

16 ~~sets~~ of configuration information for a data forwarding

17 device contains a second statement of the plurality of

18 statements to define at least a part of a hierarchical

19 configuration.

1   16.   (currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein

2   the at least the part of the first set ~~selected one of at~~

3   ~~least two sets~~ of configuration information for a data

4   forwarding device only includes a defined first statement

5   and any of the plurality of statements that are descendants

6   of the defined first statement in the hierarchical

7   configuration, and

8   wherein the at least the part of the second set

9   ~~selected one of at least two sets~~ of configuration

10 information for a data forwarding device includes a

11 corresponding first statement and any of the plurality of

12 statements that are descendants of the defined first

13 statement in the hierarchical configuration.

1   17.   The method of claim 16 wherein the defined first

2   statement is defined by a user input.

1   18. The method of claim 15 wherein the hierarchical

2   configuration information includes at least two categories

3   at a first hierarchical level, and

4   wherein the at least two categories are selected

5   from a group of data forwarding device configuration

6   categories consisting of:

7   A)   chassis configuration information;

8   B)   class-of-service configuration information;

9   C)   firewall configuration information;

10   D)   forwarding-options configuration information;

11   E)   groups configuration information;

12   F)   interfaces configuration information;

13   G)   policy-options configuration information;

14   H)   protocols configuration information;

15   I)   routing-instances configuration information;

16   J)   routing-options configuration information;

17   K)   network management protocol configuration

18   information; and

19   L)   system configuration information.

1   19. (currently amended) The method of claim 14 wherein

2   the act of accepting at least a part of the first <u>set</u>

3   ~~selected one of at least two sets~~ of configuration

4   information for the data forwarding device is performed by

5   accessing a storage device of the data forwarding device,

6   wherein the act of accepting at least a part of

7   the second <u>set</u> ~~selected one of at least two sets~~ of

8   configuration information for the data forwarding device is

9   performed by accessing a storage device of the data

10   forwarding device, and

11   wherein the act of determining differences, if

12   any, between

13   - the first <u>set</u> ~~selected one of at least~~

14   ~~two sets~~ of configuration information for

15   the data forwarding device, and

16   - the second <u>set</u> ~~selected one of at least~~

17   ~~two sets~~ of configuration information for

18   the data forwarding device,

19 is performed by a component of the data forwarding device.

1   20.   (currently amended) The method of claim 14 wherein

2   the first <u>set</u> ~~selected one of at least two sets~~ of

3   configuration information for a data forwarding device

4   includes a plurality of statements, at least some of which

5   define parameter values,

6   wherein the second <u>set</u> ~~selected one of at least~~

7   ~~two sets~~ of configuration information for the data

8   forwarding device includes a plurality of statements, at

9   least some of which define parameter values, and

10   wherein the act of determining differences, if

11 any, between

12   - the first <u>set</u> ~~selected one of at least~~

13   ~~two sets~~ of configuration information for

14   the data forwarding device, and

15   - the second <u>set</u> ~~selected one of at least~~

16   ~~two sets~~ of configuration information for

17   the data forwarding device,

18 considers a selected one of (a) statements only, (b)

19 parameter values only, and (c) statements and parameter

20 values.

1 Claim 21 (cancelled).

1   Claim 22 (original): In a data forwarding device, a
2   facility for comparing at least a part of sets of
3   configuration information, the facility comprising:
4   a) a storage device for storing at least two sets of
5   configuration information for the data forwarding
6   device;
7   b) an input facility for
8   i) accepting at least a part of a first selected
9   one of the at least two sets of configuration
10   information for the data forwarding device, and
11   ii) accepting at least a part of a second
12   selected one of the at least two sets of
13   configuration information for the data forwarding
14   device; and
15   c) a configuration comparison facility for
16   determining differences, if any, between
17   - the first selected one of the at least two
18   sets of configuration information for the data
19   forwarding device, and
20   - the second selected one of the at least two
21   sets of configuration information for the data
22   forwarding device.

1   Claim 23 (currently amended): A method comprising:
2   receiving with a data forwarding device, a first set
3   of configuration information for the data forwarding
4   device, wherein the first set of configuration information
5   has not yet been committed on the data forwarding device;
6   receiving with the data forwarding device, a second
7   set of configuration information for the data forwarding
8   device;

9   determining with the data forwarding device,

10   differences between the first and second sets of

11   configuration information.

1   Claim 24 (original): The method according to claim 23,

2   wherein the data forwarding device is a router.

1   Claim 25 (currently amended): A data forwarding device

2   comprising:

3   a memory storing a first set of configuration

4   information and a second set of configuration information

5   for the data forwarding device; and

6   a processing module for determining differences

7   between the first and second sets of configuration

8   information stored in the memory.

1   Claim 26 (currently amended): A data forwarding device

2   comprising:

3   a plurality of data interfaces for connection to

4   respective data lines;

5   a mechanism for forwarding data from one data

6   interface to another data interface;

7   a user interface for entering configuration

8   information;

9   a memory storing a first set of configuration

10   information and a second set of configuration information;

11   and

12   a processing module for determining differences

13   between the first and second sets of configuration

14   information stored in the memory.

1 Claim 27 (new): The method of claim 10 wherein the
2 selected set of configuration information for a data
3 forwarding device is a most recently committed set of
4 configuration information for the data forwarding device.

1 Claim 28 (new): The method of claim 10 wherein the
2 selected set of configuration information for a data
3 forwarding device is selected by a user.

1 Claim 29 (new): The method of claim 11 wherein the
2 selected set of configuration information for a data
3 forwarding device is a most recently committed set of
4 configuration information for the data forwarding device.

1 Claim 30 (new): The method of claim 11 wherein the
2 selected set of configuration information for a data
3 forwarding device is selected by a user.

1 Claim 31 (new): The method of claim 14 wherein a command
2 to save the first set of configuration information on the
3 data forwarding device as a committed configuration has not
4 occurred.